



Speech by

VAUGHAN JOHNSON

MEMBER FOR GREGORY

Hansard 18 October 2000

BURDEKIN BYPASS

Mr JOHNSON (Gregory—NPA) (10.16 a.m.): In early September the Leader of the Opposition presented to this Parliament a petition from 1,012 petitioners in relation to the proposed Burdekin bypass. This petition called upon the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads, Steve Bredhauer, to act in accordance with the wishes of the Burdekin district community and abandon the Burdekin bypass project. This petition also called upon the Minister to abandon the proposed route options on maps and, in particular, to have notations by the Department of Main Roads removed from land titles.

This petition highlights the concern in the Burdekin community about the uncertainty that has arisen from the indecision and procrastination that has taken place in relation to this project. Because of the delays and the buck-passing that has occurred with this project, there are now at least five proposed routes for the bypass. The problem is that as this project has dragged on the properties along each of these routes have been adversely affected by the notations on their title documentation. The owners of those properties have been seriously disadvantaged by the delays and indecision of this Labor Government.

The landowners have had enough. They are asking that this petition be presented to the Government and that the Minister undo the damage that has been done. Landowners have been unable to sell their properties or, for that matter, use their properties as security for the development or ongoing maintenance of their holdings—all because of the actions of this Labor Government.

I join with Terry Marato and other concerned people in the Burdekin and ask that the Minister take heed of this petition and act to put an end to the bureaucratic strangling of this very productive Burdekin area.
